that they lie open to the swells of that bay and ocean, from all the south-western points of the compass; so that all the heavy seas from that quarter break over the Eddystone Rocks with uncontrollable fury. Sometimes, indeed, when the sea is to all appearance smooth, and its surface elsewhere unruffled, the ground swell, meeting the slope of the rocks, bents upon them in a frightful manner. This short description of the site of the building will convey some idea of the difficulty of the undertaking, more especially as Mr. Smeaton proposed the erection to be entirely of stone, to which was opposed the *general opinion* that a structure of that description was less capable of continued resistance than one composed principally of the lighter material, *timber*; also, that the period to be occupied in building would be greatly prolonged by the necessary preparation, transport, and difficulty of landing stone upon the rock. These preliminary objections being, however, removed by demonstrations and models, the integrity of Mr. Smeaton's plan was preserved, and he commenced cutting the rock for receiving the foundation on the 5th of August, 1756, and fixed the first block of granite, weighing two and a quarter tons, in its place, on the 12th June, 1757. To describe the progress of the building would be incompatible with the space we could devote; as given by the pen of Mr. Smeaton, it is replete with profitable information, and the development of a master mind in meeting the natural obstacles opposed to him. Not only judgment, but the inventive faculties, were put into requisition at every step; new expedients and new machinery were adopted, and in handling the latter, the engineer was foremost—with him the post of *honour* was that of *danger*, and by this means he at once inspired the confidence and respect of every artificer in his employ. This great work, the English Pharos, remains perfect and unshaken after the lapse of nearly a century. The whole time occupied, between the first stroke upon the rock and the completion of the lighthouse, was three years, nine months, and two days; but the actual time expended upon the rock, that is, in rearing the building with the materials which had been previously prepared in the yards on shore, was only 111 days, 10 hours, and so perfect were the arrangements and discipline, that not a single accident affecting life or limb occurred.

Though Mr. Smeaton completed the Eddystone in 1759, it was not until ten years from that date had elapsed that he got full employment as a civil engineer. In the interim he obtained the appointment of joint receiver of the Derwentwater estates, forfeited on the attainder of the Earl of that name in 1645, and assigned by the Crown for the maintenance of Greenwich Hospital, for which he was well qualified, the principal sources of revenue being extensive mines, which required the superintendence of such a man. Business now flowed in upon him, and in 1775 he found difficulty in attending to the various important commissions tendered to him for acceptance. His opinions on all matters connected with civil engineering, and the construction of machinery, had acquired a weight and validity that occasioned his being constantly consulted respecting public improvements. He thus became a frequent attendant on Parliamentary committees, and on these occasions his natural strength of judgment, and perspicuity of expression, had full scope. It was his practice when applied to, to plan or support any measure, to make himself fully acquainted with it, and to be convinced of the merits before he would become concerned. By this caution, joined to the clearness of his descriptions, and known integrity, he rarely failed having the bill he supported carried into an Act of Parliament. No person was heard with more attention, nor had any one ever more confidence placed in his testimony; and in the courts of law he had repeated compliments paid to him from the bench by the late Lord Mansfield, and other judges of the land, on account of the assistance derived in every case wherein he stood forward.

Great projects and great works were incidents which the constitution of his mind disposed him to grapple with, and the manly simplicity of his deportment to his superiors and employers, combined with the disinterested modulation of his pecuniary ambition, procured him universal respect. Nor was a knowledge of his merit and capabilities confined to these islands; splendid offers to transfer his services in aid of the political and commercial views of other countries were made to him, but refused. The Empress Catherine of Russia, successor to the imperial pioneer Peter, choosing for the experiment the Princess Askoff, then residing in England, tendered him a *carte blanche*, using every persuasion to induce him to accept it, together with the sole direction of the vast improvements projected in that empire, but which was met by a decided negative. The reply of the princess might have furnished an inscription for the tomb of the self-taught engineer:—"Sir, you are a great man, and I honour you; you may, perhaps, have an equal in ability, but in *character* you stand single. The English minister, Sir Robert Walpole, was mistaken, and my sovereign has the misfortune to find *one man* who has not his price."

Mr. Smeaton executed numerous works connected with harbours, canal navigation, mills, and machinery, his reports alone occupying four quarto volumes, and a perusal of them affords instruction and pleasure even to the best informed in this advanced, and advancing, day of science. In private and domestic life we are told that he was the least vain and most unassuming individual who ever attained to eminence. Of himself he never spoke. In nothing does he seem to have stood more single than in being devoid of that egotism which more or less affects the world. Devoted to his family with a perfect affection, his manner was at once so lively and serene that it was impossible to say whether the charm of conversation, the simplicity of instruction, or the gentleness with which it was conveyed, most endeared his home; a home, says his daughter, in which from infancy we cannot recollect to have seen a trace of dissatisfaction, or a word of asperity to any one. Yet with all this he was absolute! And it is for casuistry in education, or rule, to explain his authority: it was an authority, as impossible to dispute as to define.' Mr. Smeaton gradually retired from public engagements towards the closing years of life; he had always apprehended the manner of his death, from palsy, or paralysis, as it had been hereditary in his family, but he *dreaded* it only as it gave the melancholy possibility of outliving his faculties; or to use his own expression, "*lingering over the dregs, after the spirit had evaporated.*" When this sudden species of attack really did occur, he met it with composure, and dignified thankfulness on finding his intellect spared. In the interim until his dissolution (about six weeks) all faculties and affections were as clear and animated as at any period of his life, and he expressed pleasure at seeing the usual occupations of his family resumed. He would sometimes, indeed, complain of his own slowness of apprehension and then would excuse it with a smile, saying "it could not be otherwise; the shadow must lengthen as the sun went down." The hand of death continued to weigh gently upon the body of this great and good man, while the spirit was preparing for its flight. On one of his last evenings, when the moon shone brightly into his room, some phenomena respecting that planet were asked him; when he had fully explained them, his eyes remained fixed upon it with a most animated attention; then turning them to those present he observed, "How often have I looked upon it with inquiry and wonder! to the period when I shall have the vast and privileged views of an *hereafter*, and all will be comprehension and pleasure."

Mr. Smeaton died on the 28th October, 1792, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

## EWYAS HARROLD CHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE.

Tradition affirms that the parish of Ewyas Harrold received its distinguishing appellation from the Saxon king, Harold, who had here a castle and extensive domain previous to his elevation to the throne, and by whom it was conferred upon an illegitimate son, also named Harold. The prefix *Ewyas* is peculiar to this county, and seems to have denoted an appanage of extent and importance, held in chief by the most powerful barons. *Lacy*, one of the immediate followers of the Norman conqueror, had a large portion of the soil of Herefordshire allotted to him, and *Ewyas Lacy*, *Ewyas land*, &c. are terms which still preserve the identity of the grant.

The church (dedicated to St. Michael), of which we give an engraving, is a small edifice, but remarkable for a massive tower in the Norman or very early English style. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Brecon, and diocese of St. David's, endowed with 200*l.* private benefaction, and 400*l.* royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Bishop of St. Davids. Ewyas Harrold is an agricultural parish in the hundred of Webtree, 12¼ miles south-west from Hereford, and contains about 450 inhabitants.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following sketch of this singular and interesting relic of an early period of church architecture.

EWYAS HARROLD CHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE.

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